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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

~~NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION~~
~~Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions~~

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Classification/Control Markings

This report contains unprocessed information. Plans and/or policies should not be evolved or modified solely on basis of this report.

1. COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AR)

2. REPORT NUMBER:

3. TITLE: Hostilities & Insurgencies Summary of Terrorist Activities

4. PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

5. DATE OF INFORMATION: 770526

6. DATE OF REPORT: 770607

7. DATE & PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 770527, Buenos Aires, Argentina

8. REFERENCES:

9. ASSESSMENT: SOURCE [ ] INFO [ ]

10. ORIGINATOR:

11. REQUEST EVALUATION ___, QPQ _____ (country)

12. PREPARING OFFICER:

13. APPROVING AUTHORITY:

14. SOURCE: American Embassy

(b)(3):10 USC 424

15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

DIRC YES ☐ NO ☒

16. SUMMARY:

(U) Report forwards a summary of political violence and terrorist activities during the period 13-19 May 1977.

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17. SUBJECT AND AREA CODES: 30 11 4 18

18. DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR:
DIA *(original)*
USCINCSO/SC-12AD
COMNAVINTCOM
CDR 193RD INF BDE
DIA/DS-6A

U 0 7 0 0 6 S-4D RECD 7 JUN 77 01 21

19. DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION DATA:
~~CLASSIFIED~~ ~~SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF EO 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DEC~~ 1983

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices
Date: *Oct 18, 2018*

20. ENCLOSURES:
1 Enclosure
1. AMEMB Telegram 3909, 261835Z May 1977, 1 Cy, 4 Pages
~~(C)~~

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21. This IR contains 1 pages.

Form 1 SEP 76 1396

1 SEPT 62 EDITION MAY BE USED UNTIL 1 MAR 77

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TELEGRAM

26 MAY 77
1605

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM: Amembassy BUENOS AIRES
CLASSIFICATION: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~E.O. 11652:~~ ~~GDS~~
TAGS: ASEC, PINT, PINS, AR SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: Summary of Terrorist Activities

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ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC 0674

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 3109

FROM RSO to SY and ARA

1. This report gives a summary of political violence and terrorist activities that have come to our attention during the period from May 13-19, 1977.

2. May 12: at 1645 hrs, a suspicious package was examined by the Bomb Squad at Montevideo 1247.

At 0045 hrs, two armed men stole a black Torino from Bartolome Mitre 2000.

At 0100 hrs, an armed man stole a Ford Falcon from a garage on Moron 2900.

On the same date, La Razon reported that a group of 5 persons in two vehicles attacked a provincial police station at Quilmes. The persons escaped and there were no reported injuries.

May 14: La Prensa reported that Mr. Abelardo Arce, a leader

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DRAFTED BY: RSO:RJKelly:mek | DRAFTING DATE: 5-24-77 | TEL. EXT: 148/175 | CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: CHARGE:MChaplin

CLEARANCES:
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(b)(3):10 USC 424

of a trade union, was kidnapped off the street at Cevallos and Estados Unidos Streets by unknown persons.

May 16: at 2030 hrs, two terrorists, a man and a woman, were killed in a confrontation at J. Newberry and Guzman, Bomb Squad was also responded to the scene as the terrorists reportedly had explosives.

On May 16, La Razon reported that the corpses of three persons were found in a public field located near Franco Avenue in Wilde. Their identity was unknown but apparently they had been shot to death.

May 17: An explosion occurred at the Martinez RR Station. Well informed source stated that the explosive device had probably been planted by dissident RR workers as a result of a major reduction in personnel. Source anticipated more of this activity.

May 19: At 0320 hrs, four armed men stole two Renaults from a garage at Entre Rios 1866.

At 0500 hrs, Federal Police announced a general alert to all personnel, informing them that terrorists had stolen two pickup trucks and that these vehicles might be used for terrorist attacks.

La Razon reported that a bomb was planted on the RR lines at the Sarandi Station. The bomb was successfully deactivated but it interrupted rail traffic for several hrs.

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On the same date, Federal Police stated that Mr. Acibal Batista, director of Celulose Argentina, in Buenos Aires, who was kidnapped on March 21, was killed by four terrorists when the police attempted to rescue him. Three men and one woman, reportedly members of the ERP, were killed in this operation.

3. RSO met with members of Argentine Intelligence Service who stated that recent operations against the ERP had been highly successful and that they felt the ERP's publishing and propaganda arm had been seriously crippled as a result of these ~~successful~~ operations.

4. Sources stated that the Montoneros had also suffered major personnel losses over the past year and that their organizational strength of a year ago, which was approximately 5000 members, has been reduced to between 1000-1200 of which only 300-400 can be considered true combatants. Apparently the Montoneros are having difficulty obtaining recruits and launching a successful operation. They have not been able to successfully conduct a major operation against the police or military forces in approximately one year. Their cells are about five men in strength and have very little communication with each other. Although this has protected the cells to some degree, it has also rendered them inactive to operate in a cohesive manner.

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Sources felt that the Montonero combatant elements will in the future limit themselves to attacks on soft targets where there is little risk fu of their suffering casualties.

5. RSO COMMENT: Although attacks on individual police officers continue, there has been a major reduction in bombing attacks and few reported incidents of bombs being planted in public places. This may represent either a logistical shortage or a tactical change.

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